

Remarks

The amendments to the claims, along with the following remarks, are responsive to the office action mailed August 31, 2004.

Claims 1, 9, 10, and 12 have been amended. Claim 22 has been cancelled. After entry of this amendment, claims 1-21, 23, and 24 are pending.

The Applicant submits that the amendments to the claims are supported by the specification and claims as originally filed and do not introduce new matter. Further, the Applicant submits that the amendments made to claims 9, 10, and 12 have been made at the Examiner's suggestion for reasons of consistency.

The amendment to claim 1 is supported by claims 1 and 22 as originally filed.

The amendment to claim 9 is supported by the specification at paragraph [0033].

The amendment to claim 10 is supported by the specification at paragraph [0032].

The amendment to claim 12 is supported by the specification at paragraph [0035].

Reconsideration of this application in view of the amendments made to the claims and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejection – 35 USC § 102(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3, 5, and 18 under 35 USC § 102(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,493,130 to Iizuka (Iizuka). The Examiner cites elements of Iizuka using Fig. 1 and element reference numbers to support his statement that Iizuka reports the optical device of claim 1. In particular, the Examiner states that Iizuka reports an optical device having a single laser source (element 100) of beams (which come out of diffractive beam splitting element 123) at an input end and image forming beams (beams coming out of lens element 142). The Examiner also states that Iizuka reports a plurality of optical components (elements 110, 121-126, 130, and 141) along the beams between the input and output ends to obtain an image on a photosensitive printing plate (element 500) from the beams, where the optical components include reflecting surfaces (elements 11, 130, and 141) adapted to fold the beams a plurality of times between the input and output ends such that the folded beams are located in a plurality of parallel surfaces (Fig. 1 and col. 3,

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line 63 to col. 4, line 47 of Iizuka) perpendicular to the image formed on the photosensitive printing plate (element 500). The Examiner further states that Iizuka reports a modulator at element 125 that is equivalent to the modulator of claim 3 and a modulator at element 141 that is equivalent to the modulator of claim 5. Moreover, the Examiner states that Fig. reports the arrangement of optical elements on substantially the same plane as is claimed in claim 18.

The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the lens to adjust the spatial position of the image from the beams of now cancelled claim 2. Iizuka does not include a lens to adjust the spatial position of the image from the beams. Therefore, amended claim 1 is not anticipated by Iizuka and is in condition for allowance. Because claims 2-21, 23, and 24 depend from an allowable independent claim they are also not anticipated by Iizuka and are in condition for allowance. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection and allow claims 1-21, 23, and 24.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to each of claims 2, 4, 6-17, and 19-24 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but stated that each of the claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to including the elements of the base claim and any intervening claims. By this amendment, claim 22 has been cancelled. Independent claim 1 has been amended to include the lens to adjust the spatial position of the image from the beams of claim 22. Therefore, claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Further, because claims 2-21, 23, and 24 depend from an allowable independent claim, they are also in condition for allowance. The Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection and allow claims 1-21, 23, and 24.

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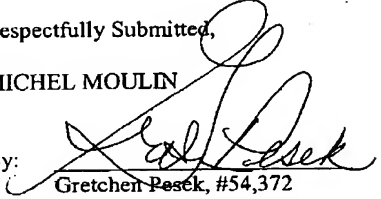
Conclusion

All pending claims are now in condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

MICHEL MOULIN

By:


Gretchen Resek, #54,372
FAEGRE & BENSON LLP
2200 Wells Fargo Center
90 South Seventh Street
Minneapolis, MN 55402-3901
612/766-7294

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